



# The Echo

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SINCE 1913



Men's basketball  
season squandered  
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THEECHOnews.com

## Candidate Stances

In their own words

THE ECHO asked both sets of candidates to provide an outline of their campaign's driving points and goals in office and what they believe sets their campaign apart. These are their exact responses with no revisions or edits by THE ECHO staff. THE ECHO copied and pasted their responses directly into the article.

**Chin Ai Oh and Noah Nemni**

Truth in Love - Our Process

1. Relational Leadership
  - For TSO and all of campus
  - Availability - a meeting with us is always possible
2. Responsiveness and Adaptability
  - Ask good questions, Listen well, Learn from each other
  - Examples of needs brought to our attention:
    - Platform for professors and students to dialogue together
    - Boosting student engagement at athletic events
    - Making students aware of administrative decisions (old student union)
  - Throughout the year, we will continue to respond and adapt to new needs
3. Equip and Empower
  - We bring your voice to the right people, empowering you and equipping them
  - Transparency in the process - THE ECHO column and informative sidebar

**Aaron Voss and Bella Purcell**

Stories are made every day at Taylor University because it is a place that cultivates relationship. Our priority is to make the changes you want to see a reality. Our promise to you is leadership that fosters a more informed, accessible, and engaged campus. We hope to do this through our five campaign commitments: improving handicap accessibility, paying two positions, a stronger counseling center, accessible dining dollars, and informed citizenship. We care deeply about this place, and we are excited to be your next Student Body President and Vice President!



## Poll results: SBP & VP

Students speak up on how they vote and perceive elections

**Annabelle Blair**  
News Co-Editor

THE ECHO polled Taylor students on the upcoming Student Body President and Vice President elections, generating 663 responses. Students were asked if they intended to vote and if they attended the election forum hosted by Taylor Student Organization, with the options of "Yes, No and Unsure." At least 486 respondents answered each question.

Seventy percent of respondents

intend to vote in the election; 15 percent do not and 15 percent are unsure. When asked if they were aware of the candidates' stances and platforms, a few respondents offered comments: "I'm not voting purely based on who I know, but I do know my candidate's stances and agree with them also;" "I will be doing my 'homework' on them very soon! Yes, I plan on becoming aware of their platforms;" "Don't care at all to be honest."

*Note from the editor: After sending out the survey, we realized that we did not provide an option for respondents to indicate they were undecided about who they will vote for. We apologize for this oversight.*

[echo@taylor.edu](mailto:echo@taylor.edu)

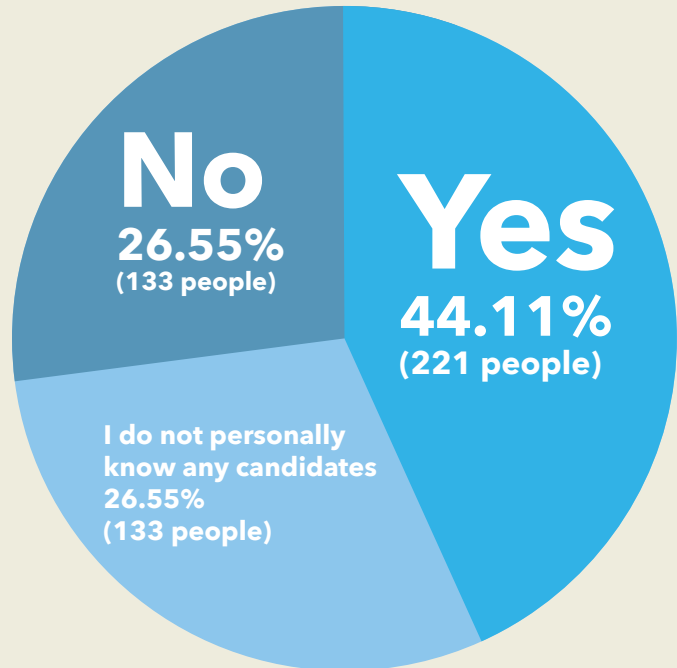
I think election results will be based on candidate teams' qualifications.



I think election results will be based on candidate teams' popularity.

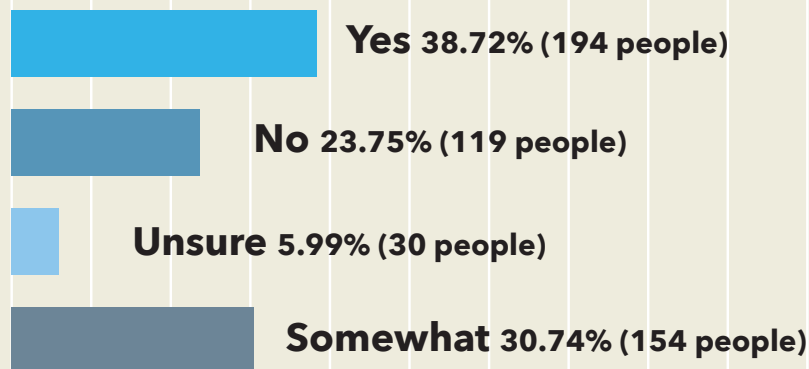


I'm voting for the candidates I personally know best.



Total Responses: 501

I am aware of the candidates' stances and platform.



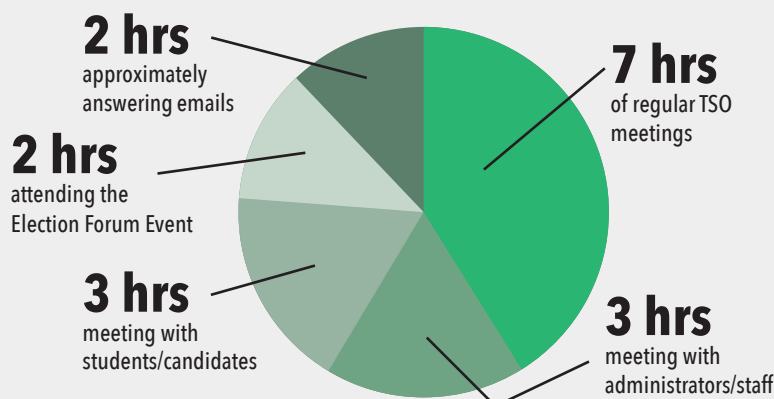
Total Responses: 501

## A breakdown of current SBP and VP roles

Arpin and Wright's self-reported weekly time commitments

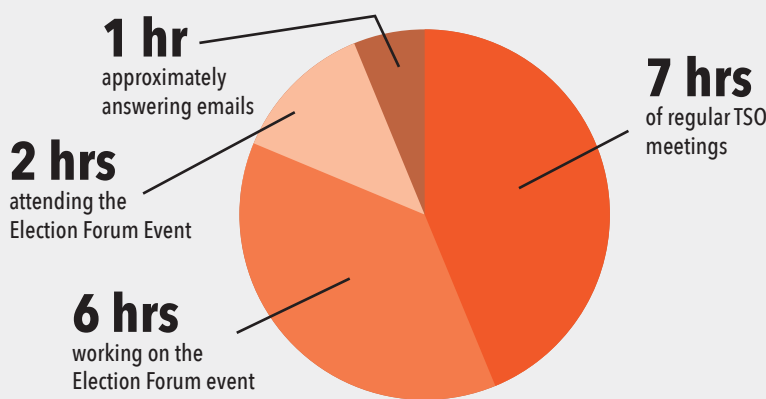
**Nicole Arpin**

Last week, Arpin spent 17 hours actively working in her SBP role. According to Arpin, this was more time than the average week. Her typical work week includes at least 7-8 hours of regular weekly meetings.



**Adam Wright**

Last week, Wright spent 16 hours working within his SBVP role. Wright said an average work week requires approximately 12 hours of time in TSO meetings, event preparation and meetings with students and administration.



Graphics designed by Derek Bender

## Everyday leadership

Taylor hosts annual National Student Leadership Conference

**Brianna Kudisch**  
Features Editor

Taylor University is hosting the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) Friday and Saturday. Planned and led by students each year, the conference embraces a theme, Gather, to signal their goal for the event. This year's motto is: "Coming together to encourage thoughtfulness, foster conversation and inspire action."

Overseeing the event, the Leadership Programming cabinet chose the motto based on the desire to inspire students towards faithful and loving action, according to Kelly Sisson, president of leadership programming. They desire to bring different people together, sharing ideas and stories to provoke and challenge perspectives, ultimately encouraging growth as leaders and

followers of Christ.

Sisson emphasized the last part of the motto—inspire action—because without action, the ideas and thoughts formed at the conference will lack impact.

"Simply thinking and talking about leadership isn't enough," Sara Bretz, graduate assistant to the cabinet, said. "We want students to use this opportunity to push them toward employing these principles of leadership in their daily lives."

The Leadership Programming cabinet stressed the impact of leadership on all students, not just those in positions with titles. The cabinet focused on leadership as an everyday concept, holding relevance in every area of life.

According to Sisson, people hold spheres of influence in multiple areas, from residence halls to athletic teams to official cabinet positions. They have the choice of being either a positive or negative influence.

"When we realize that leadership is not just about having a title or a nametag, hopefully we will be (able) to realize that we are each called to



Several speakers for this year's NSLC include (clockwise from top left): Josh Riebock, Katelyn Beaty, Lisa Sharon Harper and Jenny Yang.

live into the gifts God has given us and to lead with those gifts," Sisson said.

Although the conference is an annual event, this year brought new

changes. One major change is the addition of the Josh Garrels and John Mark McMillan Revelators Tour concert after the Friday night sessions. Combining the concert

with the conference added logistical challenges but will positively contribute to attendees' experiences,

Leadership continues on [page 2](#)



# What's new with your food

Management shifts prompt change in the Dining Commons

Jaci Gorrell  
Contributor

The change in DC management prompted a reevaluation of management positions. Dave Seweryn, Creative Dining Services Operations Director, says the addition of the Student Center food responsibilities last year has stretched the Food Service Director position too thin.

In order to maximize leadership and efficiency, Taylor has decided to divide the position into a Dining Services Director and Assistant Director. Seweryn will serve as Interim Dining Services Director and mentor the new Director who is expected to join the campus this spring.

Becky Wright, of Hicksville, OH, has been hired to serve as the Assistant Dining Services Director. She comes to Taylor with over thirty years of experience in campus dining service. Wright will oversee the DC and Taylor's concessions, as well as overall student dining experience.



Photograph by Halle Owens

Dave Seweryn will be serving as Interim Dining Services Director until the position is filled. Becky Wright recently accepted a position to oversee the Dining Commons, Taylor's concessions and overall student dining experience.

Seweryn says, "Becky is kind of a catalyst in providing what I call the stable leadership. When there's great leadership in place, things start to flourish."

Wright has been on campus just over a month, but says she feels she

has been a part of the Taylor family for a long time. She hopes to translate her passion for food into enthusiasm in the DC.

"I get excited about food, because I live food. That's where I'm creative, that's where I do my work," she says.

Seweryn and Wright have worked with the help of student surveys and feedback to introduce student-driven changes in the DC. Adjusted dinner hours, simplified dishes at the Interaction station, display plates at the top of the steps and faster lines are just a few of the adjustments prompted by students in the DC.

What can we expect in the DC's future? According to Seweryn, it is difficult to tell.

"For someone to sit here and say vegan tacos are going to be the thing next year is throwing darts blindfolded. So we watch and listen," he says.

For now, to make the DC a better place, Wright says, "We like to hear from students. We like the comment cards—good or bad. Sometimes we need suggestions or comments to let us know. What do you miss from home? What are you looking for? What can we do to help serve you better? Interact with us."

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## Leadership continued from page 1

according to Bretz.

The conference will be held almost entirely in the LaRita Boren Campus Center, which facilitates an ideal space for sessions and workshops, according to Sisson. Another change involves fewer speakers compared to previous years. Students felt overwhelmed with the number of speakers in the past, which led Sisson and other cabinet members to reduce the number of keynote sessions.

Starting in late spring of last year, the newly hired Leadership Programming cabinet began researching and brainstorming what

the conference could look like—big picture ideas. Initially contacted in July and confirmed in December, speakers were chosen from a wide variety of backgrounds and areas of expertise to cover the themes explored in the conference, from imagination to power; from failure to culture.

Three of the speakers were included in the article "7 Leaders to Follow in 2017" by Relevant Magazine. One of the speakers, Amy Peeler, lived in Marion for many years and now teaches at Wheaton College. Another speaker, Josh Riebock, has previously spoken at NSLC.

Riebock, who will be sharing stories about honesty, darkness and

introspection, believes people can always learn and evolve. He hopes people find something meaningful within his message, regardless of what it is.

"We wanted to dig a little deeper into these themes and choose speakers with insight on how to actually apply these themes practically," cabinet member Christine Urban said. "For instance, (speaker) Katelyn Beaty will be talking about gender identity, which digs deeper into the theme of power."

Sisson compared selecting the speakers from different backgrounds and expertise, all while working within the given budget, to a giant jigsaw puzzle with many

moving pieces.

Founded in 1982 by Lowell Haines, when he worked for Taylor Student Organization (TSO), NSLC was the first leadership conference entirely run and led by students. Several hundred students will be attending the conference, including students from Asbury University, Messiah College, Grace College, Greenville College and other universities.

The conference enables students to personally interact with the speakers. Cabinet member Grason Poling compared the event to a baseball game with exceptional players.

"Let's pretend you're twice as much of a fan of baseball than you

are right now," he said. "If you heard that a meet and greet exposition game with future hall-of-famers was taking place in your backyard for nearly no price at all, you would want to go right?"

He continued, "This is basically what's happening here. You'll be hearing from some especially exceptional thinkers of the day, and you'll have ample opportunity to pick their brains and interact with them."

Although online registration has closed, students still have the opportunity to attend the conference. Taylor students and faculty can buy tickets at the door for \$20 from 2–4 p.m. on Friday.

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# UNMASKING the mascots

The inhuman members of wings across campus

**Hope Bolinger**  
Copy Editor

College requires students to stretch their comfort zones when it comes to roommates. Some blast music at 3 a.m. Others eat Campus Center pizza with a fork and knife. But at Taylor, you could end up with an even odder bunkmate—say, a green dog.

Wing and floor mascots: nearly every dorm has them, and odds are you'll find an odd creature hiding in the bathroom, chilling in the suite or hanging in the halls.

## Bergwall

### Second Bergwall: The Cone

During the Campus Center construction in 2016, a Bergwall resident found

a traffic cone and gave it a home. A student threw the Cone (Bergwall insists this be capitalized) into an inhabitant's room, and the unhappy Bergwall native tossed it out, according to senior Connor Salter. PA and senior Grant Hohlbein quickly made the Cone a prank item. Because of Bergwall's open door policy, if a floor member shuts his door for an unneeded reason, he could become "coned," meaning a student tosses the Cone into the offender's room. The game is tag-like, and the person with the Cone passes it off to the next victim.

## English

### Second South: Sandy

Sophomores Hannah Goebel and Alora Pradel purchased a stuffed green dog for \$8 at Goodwill last year. Although Sandy was meant to be an item to prank juniors on the wing, Goebel and Pradel decided to keep



Photograph by provided Connor Salter  
Senior Connor Salter next to Bergwall's traffic symbol of "degrading coneage."



Photograph provided by Sean Mitchem  
Moose Tri-Lion the Tiger watches over a Gerig hallway.



Photograph by Chris Gagnon, provided by Bradley Jensen  
Susan, the resident bird of Swallow Robin.

the canine as a relic instead. Second South has had to retrieve Sandy six or seven times from thieves.

## Third North: Gordon

Junior Paige Kennedy's dad found the stuffed man "Gordon" by a church dumpster. "He was sent to me by my parents at the beginning of our freshman year," Kennedy said. "If I started missing (my parents), I would have this lovely person to hug." Gordon participated in parades, ate meals at the DC, starred in photo shoots and even attended dates with the wing. In 2015, someone from Samuel Morris Hall stole the mascot. Then, an unidentified student pilfered the stuffed man from the previous thief. To this day, the wing has not recovered Gordon. As Third North still mourns for the lost relic, senior Jillian Wilhelm says, "We have not forgotten nor have we given up hope that he will be found again."

## Gerig

**FOSO: The Captain, Moose Tri-Lion the Tiger and Wormwood**

Fourth Gerig (FOSO) has had five well-known relics, according to "unofficial lorekeeper" senior Sean Mitchem. Three remain on the floor today. The Captain, whose name is always spelled with a capital C, is the most respected mascot. He often receives salutes and salutations of "Sir," "Captain" and "oh Captain, my Captain" from the members of the floor. PA and senior Caleb Dinsmore affirms the importance of the Captain: "He has always been the Captain; that's all I can tell you." The secretive PA did not let the Captain have any photographs taken of him. Other mascots on the fourth floor include an inflatable tiger head, "Moose Tri-Lion the Tiger," who watches over the Window Suite (the easternmost wing) and finally a bathroom-pun-telling plastic ghost called "Wormwood."

## Swallow Robin

### Second Swallow: Susan

Sophomore Bradley Jensen claims the cement hen "Susan" has a mysterious past: "No one really knows

where it came from, but there are many legends." Jensen recalls spotting the bird when he attended CRAM one summer. All those who stayed in Swallow for the high school program named the fowl mascot "Kevin," even though other residents know it as Susan.

## Wengatz

### Third East: Flag

A freshman has the honor to bear Third East's flag for four years after the previous carrier passes it on to him. Like other wing relics, this one has had at least one case of looting. In 2004, the flag-bearer's love interest stole the blue and red flag, according to current flag-bearer and senior Grason Poling. The wing constructed a purple triangular-shaped replacement to make up for the loss. Eleven years later, the plunderer discovered the flag in her attic and returned it to the wing during the van accident reunion in 2016. Now, the wing carries both emblems with pride.

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Photograph provided by Jillian Wilhelm  
Gordon reclines and enjoys watching students play spikeball outside of Olson Hall.

## BRINGING THE WORLD TO WHEATON



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"All of these restaurants have security recordings of each food order they fill, but most of the time this potential evidence goes to waste. That's where I come in."

A secure job

# Brecken's BREAKDOWN

Getting down with your true self

**Brecken Mumford**  
Contributor

Welcome, readers, to the second installation of "Brecken's Break-down." This week I'm going familial; I'm going to talk about my youngest brother.

Cash is a funky, jean-hating, video-loving 11-year-old. I mean, with a name like Cash, how can he not be awesome?

He's always been crazy and effervescent. Most of my family's funny one-liners and memories are from things Cash has said or done. He's not afraid to ask questions, to tell you what he's thinking or dance around a parking lot with his crazy older sister. I hope he stays like that. I need to know there's someone out there who's almost as bad at dancing as I am.

I know he's only 11, but sometimes

I wonder what he'll be like when he's my age. Will he stop asking creative questions? Will he still like weird food? Will he still hate jeans? Will he refuse to let other people dictate who he'll be?

There's a lot of maturing, growth and life he'll experience between now and then; change is unavoidable and usually a good thing. (I can't wait for the day that Cash stops saying "I know you are but what am I?" for good.) But I ask myself these questions because I know what it's like to conform to the expectations of others.

So many of my 20 trips around the sun have been spent constantly chasing after the affirmation and validation of others: squishing myself into the mold they set for their version of "normal," of "intelligent," of "authentic."

I've felt hopelessly lost, confused and alone, striving for the approval and time of these people. Let me tell you something, in case you didn't know: it's exhausting to continually

chase after the affections of people while also trying to stifle yourself.

I'm finally at a point in my life when I realize how much time I've wasted trying to be someone I'm not. I'm still figuring it out, but this is a lot easier than trying to limit myself to others' image.

Oh good, another 'self-love' article. Darn right, but hang in there.

I've seen too many people in my life shift and conform to the expectations of others. I've done it, and sometimes I see Cash doing it—and he's only 11.

That's why I'm writing this article: you need to know it's okay that you don't fit into a box. Life is messy; people are messy. The world is painful and ugly, but it is also amazing. Your existence is too short to mold yourself into something you're not meant to be.

Cash got braces on Monday. He sent me a picture from my mom's phone with an arbitrary quote from the musical "Hamilton." He's a weird kid, and he doesn't fit neatly into categories.

Neither do I, and neither do you. So go out and live your life messily and if you see me dancing in the hallway, you are more than welcome to join in.

If you want Brecken to break down your problems, email the co-editors at [chrysa\\_keenon@taylor.edu](mailto:chrysa_keenon@taylor.edu) [echo@taylor.edu](mailto:echo@taylor.edu)



Photograph by Isabelle Kroeker

Brecken breaks down what it means to live outside the box.

# A secure job

Catching criminals from the comfort of the dorm

**Joshua Henreckson**  
Contributor

Spare time can be hard to come by at Taylor. For an introvert like me, the daily routine on campus can often feel like walking a tightrope

between academic and social commitments. And sleep? Forget about it.

So what happens when you also need to fit a job into the mix? Most students turn to on-campus employment, but I've taken a different approach.

For the past three and a half years, I've worked for a company

called Next Wave Security Solutions. If you don't own a fast food restaurant, you've probably never heard of it. Next Wave monitors security footage from fast food chains like Burger King and Hardee's to prevent employee theft.

From the outside, fast food drive-thru service might seem very mechanical and streamlined, but

many restaurants are full of human error. Sometimes this is accidental, but occasionally employees intentionally leverage these loopholes to drain cash out of the system and into their pockets.

All of these restaurants have security recordings of each food order they fill, but most of the time this potential evidence goes to waste. That's where I come in.

Next Wave hired me as a remote employee, which means I'm usually wrapped in a blanket on my bed and sipping tea while I work. I'm assigned a handful of restaurants each week, and I can log in at any time to review their footage. Thankfully, a computer program highlights clips of any suspicious orders, such as refunds or orders where customers receive free food from unusual discounts. Using these recordings, I can get a good sense of what's happened over the last week in about two hours.

You might think that watching security footage for several hours would become mind-numbingly boring. To some extent, you'd be right. Fortunately, though, strange situations often pop up to make the job interesting for me.

My biggest bust came just a few months into the job, at a burger fast food chain. Half the team was in on the scam, including several managers and at least a half dozen employees. Each day they stole hundreds of dollars, collected the cash, and handed it out the drive through window in paper bags at night.

Every once in a while, I'd find

myself watching squabbles between employees and customers forced to wait longer than usual. Generally they would only exchange harsh words, which I couldn't hear because the security footage doesn't record sound. Sometimes, customers would snap and throw drinks and cold fries back through the product window. Once a customer followed this up by trying to punch an employee.

Working for Next Wave has been an unusual but rewarding experience. And while I don't know if I'll ever get a full night of sleep at Taylor, the job has helped me walk the tightrope better than I could have otherwise.

[echo@taylor.edu](mailto:echo@taylor.edu)



Photograph by Mindy Wildman

Joshua Henreckson works to prevent employee theft by monitoring security footage.

# Echograms #TaylorU Instagram



@carofineelizabeth

I have some amazing friends!! Thank you so much for coming out and cheering me on for my last regular show of the season! #tayloru #tuet #rideihsa



@alyssahenrickson13

These people, I love them <3 #gerigleadershipforthewin #gerighall #tayloru

# #TaylorU's TOP TWEETS

**Joy Steckenrider**@joystecky  
saw my first DTR around the loop since winter today, so officially spring or??? #tayloru

**Lakota Hernandez**@khernando15  
I saw a guy rip the caution tape around the bell tower and walk through with no cares in the world. What a guy. #tayloru

**Evan Miyakawa**@evanmiya  
The Student Center: the only place it is socially acceptable to know everybody and talk to nobody. #tayloru

**Connor Scott**@iamconnorrcscott  
Tuesday's are like the feeling you get when you wake up from a nap, except the feeling lasts all day. #tayloru

**Breanna Bartlett**@College\_EQ17  
On days like today it's really easy to see who's from the Midwest and who's not by how they dress #tayloru

**Emily Ervin**@emsy\_rose22  
You know you're a TU student when 2 of the 3 papers you have to write are self-analysis/self-reflection & service learning papers. #tayloru

**Tyler Kempton**@TylerKempton12  
tucan. Why? #tayloru

**Olivia Miller**@OliivaaMillerr  
JoAnn Rediger called me at work 4 times before 10:00. I know it's her because she sings whose number she needs to me #tayloru



# Real time

Josh Garrels and John Mark McMillan concert

**Grace Hooley**  
Staff Writer

Have you ever felt time stand still? The clock slows as a feeling of significance courses through your veins. You and the people around you experience it: a little bit of magic in real time.

Taylor students have the opportunity to experience this firsthand Friday, Feb. 24 at 8:45 p.m., during a Josh Garrels and John Mark McMillan concert. This concert is a part of The Revelators Tour, during which Garrels and McMillan will be performing 11 concerts throughout the East and Midwest. The duo will be splitting the night as they perform a combination of old and new songs.

“We’ve got some things up our sleeves,” McMillan said. “It’s fun, just celebrating the gift of life. We enjoy one another.”

Garrels was born in Detroit, Michigan, grew up in South Bend, Indiana, and graduated just a few miles down the road from Taylor at Ball State University in 2002. He now lives in Portland, Oregon, where he has been for the last eight years. McMillan is from Charlotte, North Carolina.

Garrels’ father was a high school band and orchestra teacher, so music was a way of life for him. Growing up, he was more into skateboarding and visual arts than music. It was in his room at Ball State University that Garrels really started making music. He played one of his first performances in the DC at Taylor and realized that songs were inside him; he just had to pursue them. Playing this concert at Taylor feels like a homecoming

to Garrels.

McMillan didn’t pursue music by going to college. He picked up a few chords from an older man at his church and ran with the passion he discovered in music.

“I started playing music because I wasn’t very good at sports and I wanted to impress girls,” McMillan said. “I didn’t impress a lot of girls, but I did fall in love with music.”

McMillan expressed that his favorite part of performing is the people. He enjoys forming relationships with fans, the band and those he encounters along the way. Garrels enjoys the pure feeling he gets when performing live.

“There’s something in the show when those songs are happening in real time,” Garrels said. “On the best nights, there’s an energy that can happen. You all know that we are present for something unique. Even though it’s the same material, we go in with our eyes wide open. There’s trouble-shooting, but the other side of that is that there’s a magic that happens.”

Travel snags and issues that happen onstage are the hardest parts of this process for these two musicians. In the end, all the time away from home, long hours spent setting up, playing, recording and tearing down are all worth it just to play live and feel some of that magic.

Tickets are on sale online through Feb. 23. Prices are \$15.00 for Taylor students and students attending NSLC, \$22.00 for faculty and staff and \$25.00 for the general public. Remaining tickets will be sold at the door the night of the concert, with all prices increasing by \$5.00. For more information, contact [staustin@taylor.edu](mailto:staustin@taylor.edu). **echo@taylor.edu**



Photograph provided by Cora Waggoner

Taylor is one of 11 stops for Josh Garrels’ and John Mark Millan’s The Revelators Tour.



Photograph by Hannah Boldt

Senior Austin Lindner, who plays Henry Law, practices during dress rehearsal this week.

## Bring your umbrella

A review of Taylor Theatre’s new production

**Kelsea Denney**  
Contributor

**“You can only see so far ahead, and that’s enough for now.”**

It’ll take courage to sit in Mitchell Theatre during the next two weekends as the lights dim and the rumble of thunderstorms fill your heart. On the stage will be a simple scene and a small cast, but do not let that fool you into thinking you’ll be left with simple or small ideas.

“When the Rain Stops Falling” follows a family line from 1959 to 2039 through the curves and trials life has to offer. In 2039, Gabriel York finds a fish at his feet, a son at his door and the same question in his heart that has been lingering for years. His son will want answers about who he is and where he comes from, but how can Gabriel answer him when he wonders the same things about himself?

Generational history comes to life, flowing together as the rain falls. Onstage, the characters almost seem to dance around one another, their umbrellas and jackets hanging like skeletons in a closet behind them. With each revolving door of tragedy, sin, beauty and truth, puzzle pieces fit together, disguised in a breathtaking blur of umbrellas and passers-by, silently screaming “There’s so much more to my story.”

Told in an unorthodox manner, the artfulness of this piece is worth the struggle to understand. Truth does not come from perfection or ease but from the understated gathering of artists who are willing to bare the scars of stories and say, “We will not hide.” And “When the Rain Stops Falling” offers viewers exactly that.

Junior cast member Jenna Van-Weelden, who performs as Beth, commented on the blessing of performing in a place where the audience is exposed to art that asks questions. Senior Jessica Schulte, who plays the older version of Van-Weelden’s Beth, says she was drawn to the rich generational connectedness that “When the Rain” has to offer and related the deep roots of family history to her own.

At the heart of this show is an abundant amount of talent, charged with passion and reverence toward storytelling. There is even a team of understudies, prepared for performance at a moment’s notice, yet we don’t see them. We don’t see the crew or the directors. We see costumed characters, exposing humanity with candor while living out their heartache and joy on the stage before us.

I saw “Antigone,” and it sent a shiver up my spine. I sang along to “Oklahoma” and left with a crush on junior John Broda’s Curly. But I felt “When the Rain Stops Falling” in all its raw power and emotion. I raced back to my dorm to tell my roommate

she was coming with me to opening weekend.

Whether from the audience, behind the scenes or onstage, this production comes highly recommended. Freshman Darah Shepherd, the master electrician for the piece, glowed as she conversed with me about its beauty and honesty. Coming offstage, sophomore Brad Walker, who portrays Gabriel Law, spoke on behalf of the production’s uniqueness compared to other shows. He said it exhibits a one-of-a-kind storytelling method and perspective on learning from brokenness.

“When the Rain Stops Falling” is not for the faint of heart. It is not for the shallow or the meek. It is for the thoughtful; for the artists. It is for the intellectuals and the fearless. But it is also for the children of God who seek comfort in connection and relation in difficulty.

Like a head-spinning thriller you restart to unveil the hidden clues just as you’ve finished, “When the Rain Stops Falling” should not be watched once, but two times over, and you’ve got two weekends to fit the necessary repeat in: Feb. 24 and 25, and March 3 and 4 at 8 p.m. and on Feb. 26 and March 5 at 2 p.m.

Step outside your comfort zone into the weathered stories of family, brokenness and redemption—but don’t forget your umbrella.

**echo@taylor.edu**

## “Through Sunset into the Raccoon Night”

New York artists create Metcalf’s exhibition

**Laura Koenig**  
A&E Editor

There are no raccoons roaming this exhibition. Instead, oil paintings, projections, bent plexiglass and ringing bells fill Metcalf Gallery. Oil paintings displaying bold colors, straight lines and empty spaces cover the left side of the gallery while projections reflected off a variety of materials create movement on the right side. Both sides meet on the far wall with a transition piece: a projection shining on an oil painting to create the illusion of a three-dimensional space.

After traveling to Upland from their studios in New York, artists Matt Kleberg, Elizabeth Stehl Kleberg and Tal Gilboa started constructing “Through Sunset into the Raccoon Night,” an exhibition that derives its name from a short story by Barry Hannah, on Tuesday, Feb. 7. While consuming about 60 gallons of coffee a day—as Matt Kleberg joked—the three figured out how to display their different projects in a single room, keeping the lights bright enough to see the oil paintings yet dark enough to view the projections.

The opening reception and artist talks were held on Friday, Feb. 10. During this time, Matt Kleberg

explained his oil paintings. He began by showing a painting he made in seventh grade. It was an album cover rendition of American rock singer Jimi Hendrix. Even though his art has morphed over time, the central iconic graphic quality of his paintings remain a foundational element of his work. Now, he removes the central element, leaving an empty space in its place.

“That central space became the subject of the paintings,” Matt Kleberg said at the talk. “That’s the mode I’ve been working in varying degrees for a couple years now. That space became the subject. I became interested in framing that space and creating a situation and creating a sense of expectation for that space without placing something in it and letting that expectant space carry the painting.”

While Matt Kleberg carves spaces in his oil paintings, Elizabeth Kleberg and Gilboa work with light and objects to create projections of bending and moving images. The two women met in graduate school at the Pratt Institute. With a professor’s encouragement, the two began creating art together.

The women started their portion of the artist talks by showing a piece of work featuring a polyphonic overtone singer, or someone who can sing two notes at the same time.



Photograph by Mindy Wildman

Elizabeth Stehl Kleberg, Tal Gilboa and Matt Kleberg opened their exhibition by sharing their thoughts about their works.

“We took that as a metaphor for how we work together,” Elizabeth Kleberg said. “Two people working on the same work. There are these two personalities or presences that act as one thing.”

The artists take their two distinct narratives and fuse them together to create a single, third narrative. They do this by bringing light and an object together to form a meeting point to create a new and animated reflection.

Assistant professor of art Suzie Dittenber met the artists this summer while staying in New York City for a conference. She invited them to come to Taylor for an exhibition.

Dittenber brought these artists to Taylor to emphasize artwork developed from relationships and friendships. Matt and Elizabeth Kleberg are married, and Gilboa is Elizabeth Kleberg’s good friend. These relationships demonstrate the value of people behind the creation of great art.

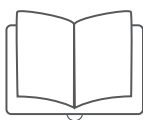
“These artists are taking basic ingredients that are somewhat quotidian or everyday and yet appropriating these things in a way that’s super playful, mysterious, magical and beautiful,” Dittenber said.

The exhibition will continue in Metcalf Gallery until Friday, March 3. **echo@taylor.edu**

### Additional A&E Events



**Envision Film Festival**  
Thursday, March 2 to  
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# Free speech isn’t free

Not everything that can be said should be said

**Marshall Oppel**  
Contributor

Political correctness. Censorship. Being a decent human being. Violating our First Amendment rights.

The topic of political correctness is a fairly heated one. On the one hand, we have a group of people who want to tailor our language to avoid offending people—seems reasonable. But on the other, we have people who don’t want to be censored. These people cite our First Amendment’s freedom of speech; this also seems reasonable. There has to be a balance somewhere, right?

I have conservative views; people should be able to live without someone controlling every aspect of their lives. As a result, I’m against anyone telling me what I can and cannot say. Yet I recognize that not everything should be said. For example, look at recent comments made by the YouTube comedian Pewdiepie. For those unaware, in a recent video he paid a group to hold up a sign saying “death to all Jews” while singing and dancing. He did this as a joke and claims he didn’t expect the group to actually

do it, yet the event was still streamed to his channel. He now faces extreme backlash.

Isn’t that what freedom of speech is all about? No, absolutely not. Freedom of speech is the right that protects us from the government telling us what we can and cannot say. Other people likewise have the right to tell us we shouldn’t say something; that’s their freedom of speech.

As Christians, we fall between the main positions in this debate. On the one hand, freedom of speech is an important right to protect, for if we ever lose that, it would not be a far step to see censorship of preaching and evangelism. And yet we are also called to be kind and loving. I hate to use a massive cliché, but the political correctness debate comes down to a heart issue. Why do we say what we say? If we are speaking out of love, which we should be, we won’t use language that hurts someone else just because we can.

Many of us will leave the Taylor bubble in the next three months. As we enter the world, we’ll undoubtedly face opinions that offend us. And that’s a good thing. It means we’re in a country of freedom. But we shouldn’t throw that freedom around and use it as an excuse to say whatever we want because we will still face consequences from those around us. You have every right to say something racist if you so choose—but your employer has every right to fire you for doing so, and your customers have every right to boycott you.  
**echo@taylor.edu**

# Double standards

Standardized tests hurt critical thinking

**Jessica Wise & Lauren Moreland**  
Contributors

*Jessica is an English education major and Lauren is a math education major. Both are seniors.*

Standardized testing is a necessary evil. Some educators believe academic standards are unrealistic nuisances, though others believe they are essential for equal education. The biggest problem is that they often require standardized testing. Ideal academic standards should consist of things like portfolios and projects. However, with the limited funding schools receive, it’s

financially difficult to hire enough people to evaluate formative assessments in a standardized manner.

Because of the emphasis on standardized testing, teachers cease to impart important, standard academic skills and instead focus on test-taking skills. In math classrooms, teachers only show students how to use functions instead of how to make deeper connections. The same issue arises in English classrooms: students learn how to read and understand a text, but not how to connect that text to other sources, their own lives and human nature.

Many teachers don’t truly understand the content and don’t know how to think critically. They’re supposed to prevent shallow learning, yet they practice it themselves. This is especially important in secondary education. As students age,

they must learn to make increasingly critical connections between subjects. Otherwise they’ll struggle more and more as they advance through school.

Though standardized testing is necessary, it is unrealistic to evaluate teachers based on their abilities to raise every student in a class to a certain proficiency. Standardized testing is supposed to be a checks-and-balances system to prove that the government’s money is paying off, but the tests are often misused to evaluate the educator’s teaching ability instead. This evaluation fails to consider the state in which students enter the class. Students who enter eighth grade with a third grade reading level will struggle and their performance will be severely impacted.

It’s good to have a required proficiency level for students, but it would be better to cross-reference standardized test scores with the students’ scores from previous years to show how much they’ve grown. Teachers, in turn, should be judged by the growth rates of their students. Assessments shouldn’t be static; each student has different abilities and growth levels.

The discussion on education standards tends to be focused on whether measurement, proficiency or growth best showcases both students’ and teachers’ abilities.

Even if you are not a teacher, this matters to you. Someday you may be a parent. And even if you are not, this will still affect you, as the children in the American education system are the future of our country and our world.  
**echo@taylor.edu**



Lauren Moreland, left and Jessica Wise, right, say everyone is impacted by how we teach.

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THE ECHO  
236 W. Reade Ave. (765) 998-5359  
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Are you opinionated? Join the campus discussion by submitting your own letter-to-the-editor to [luke\\_wildman@taylor.edu](mailto:luke_wildman@taylor.edu) by Wednesday at 5 p.m. Please keep the word count to 500–700 words. THE ECHO only accepts submissions from current faculty, staff or students.







Junior Keaton Hendricks tallied 13 points on Wednesday in the Crossroads League Tournament against Spring Arbor.

## Men's basketball falls to Spring Arbor in playoffs

**Justin Chapman**  
Sports Co-Editor

The Trojans now stand with a record of 20-11 at the end of their regular season. The NAIA tournament looks distant for this squad since they are not ranked in the national poll. Their successful season seems to be coming to a heartbreaking end.

Taylor's biggest lead in the game was 12 when the score was 39-27 in the first half. The teams grappled for

Down-to-the-wire games seem to be the story when these two teams play. When they faced off in November, Spring Arbor missed a game-winner. In January when the foes met again, freshman Mason Degenkolb converted the game-winner.

Throughout the season Spring Arbor has been a great defensive team. Taylor managed to turn the ball over four times. Furthermore, the Trojans could not convert many shots in the second half. Overall, Taylor went 8-27

Shooting in the first half appeared not to be an issue for Taylor. After going 15-32 from the field overall and 6-15 from the three-point line, the Trojans could not continue their hot shooting in the second half.

The Trojans went down shooting, giving themselves an opportunity to win. Junior Tim Fleming's free throw tied the score at 73-73 with 15 seconds left. After the Cougars made the score 75-73, Degenkolb missed a half-court buzzer-beater.

"Momentum definitely carries through halftime," junior Keaton Hendricks said. "That hurt. Like I said, we were up (by) 12 and if we would have

Senior Eric Cellier said shots that usually go in for Taylor did not fall Wednesday. He knows Spring Arbor was solid defensively, which meant Taylor should have stepped up on offense.

For Cellier and the other seniors on this team, the game Wednesday could have been their last at Taylor. NAIA tournament teams will be revealed next Wednesday and while the team is hopeful for an at-large bid, the chances they make it are low.

"It's a strange feeling," Cellier said. "(It's) obviously disappointing that it has come to an end. We're still holding on to a little bit of hope that we might have a shot at that national tournament bid. Because of that it makes it feel a little awkward because it's not exactly for sure if it's officially the end yet."

## Trojans fall in Crossroads League Tournament

**Kayla Springer**  
Staff Writer

Interim head coach Becca Bornhorst attributed the struggles on Tuesday night to several things. In her own words, the team was not able to get in a rhythm, in part due to foul trouble plaguing the team's line-up rotations. Bornhorst commended her team on their ball handling but felt they struggled to keep their shooting percentage up, specifically at the free throw line.

Wyse agreed with her coach, and said that the biggest issue for the team was their inability to get into a flow. But, the junior knows that this successful season contained many positive aspects.

The end of this season meant the final game in purple and gold for senior

Compton's favorite part of this season was seeing how the team stayed united and fought for each other throughout an up and down season. Moreover, she has enjoyed the lessons and friendships that have resulted from her time as a Trojan.

Bornhorst maintained a positive perspective by focusing on team improvement and personal growth. She placed a greater emphasis on offense, taking better care of shots and comparing the team's overall stats to the stats of the conference showcase both team and individual improvements in multiple categories.

Former head coach Kelly Packard in the middle of the season requested an immediate leave of absence, causing this year to be an atypical season for the program. The interim head coach still recognized a divine plan interwoven throughout the season.

“This season threw our team many difficult circumstances,

**echo@taylor.edu**



Sophomore Kendall Bradbury netted a team-high 18 points in Tuesday night's game against Grace.

